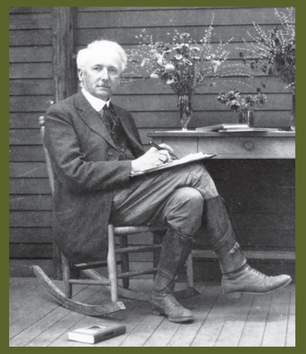


"When I began to study national parks, endeavoring to differentiate one from the other, I found that to understand scenic beauty I had to get down to the geological skeleton, exactly as the artist has first to study anatomy before he can paint the human figure. Geology is the anatomy of scenery."

ROBERT STERLING YARD
Chief of the Education Division, National Park Service, 1917

FIND YOUR PARK

EXPLORE GEOLOGY | HTTP://GO.NPS.GOV/GEOLOGY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | GEOLOGIC RESOURCES DIVISION

AGI american geosciences institute
connecting earth, science, and people

FIND YOUR PARK

Explore Geology

Geologic features determine the character of many of our national parks. One of the ways that you can discover and connect with your park is by understanding its geologic story. Using the science of geology—the study of the Earth—we can learn to read the landscape.

What do you see when you look out at the scenic landscape of your park? All of the landforms—mountains, valleys, canyons, and more—were shaped by geologic processes. Some processes span hundreds of millions of years such as the creation of the Appalachian Mountains; others occur in mere minutes, like a volcanic eruption at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Geologists have learned to interpret the stories of national parks, and you can too. Learn more at **http://go.nps.gov/geology.**

Celebrate 100!

The National Park Service is turning 100 years old in 2016! Please join the celebration and take part in the "Find Your Park" campaign.

Finding your park means discovering a special place that moves you, holds value, or inspires a feeling of deep connection. Is there a park that tells a special story or one that you are a part of, or one that you want to learn more about?

People have long felt connected to special places like parks. Maybe your family or friends have traveled hundreds of miles to experience the scenic landscapes of Grand Canyon National Park, or perhaps you return many times a year to your favorite park. Such experiences form the basis for lifelong memories. Take part in the celebration! Explore, learn, discover, and have fun in more than 400 U.S. national parks.

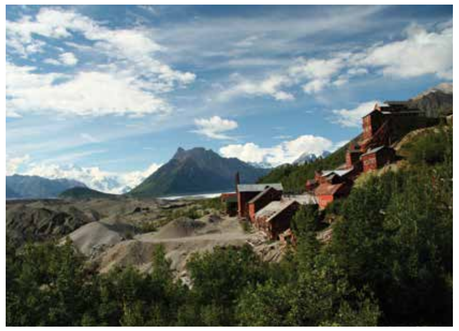
2016 National Park Service CENTENNIAL

Connect to Your Park

The science behind the scenery can help you better understand how a geologic area is unique and significant. A personal connection to your park develops when you discover the qualities and activities that you value. The following values are just some ways that you can connect with your park. Learn more at **http://go.nps.gov/geovalues.**

AESTHETIC APPEAL. Generations of park visitors have been inspired by the natural beauty or "scenery" of America's national parks. Geologic processes shape our iconic landscapes.

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION. People find enjoyment in the landscapes of national parks, and parks provide an accessible source of inspiration for poetry, music, painting, and sculptures. Some national parks have Artist-in-Residence programs.



ECONOMIC VALUE. Parks support business, tourism, and employment in surrounding communities and showcase geologic resources (gold, silver, and other minerals) that have supported economies and shaped American history and culture.

RECREATION. America's geologic landscapes provide exceptional settings for hiking, camping, biking, boating, and other outdoor recreational opportunities. They also provide natural areas for improving mental health through stress relief, appreciation of nature, and wilderness experiences.

CULTURAL TREASURES. Human culture is linked to local geologic landscapes and the resources they provide. Deep connections are also clear from our long history of stories, art, songs, poems, and ceremonies that feature or celebrate park landscapes.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT. Parks provide real places where science is practiced. Discoveries and data from parks can help make formal and informal education more interesting and meaningful, supporting both on-site and distance learning.

SCIENTIFIC VALUE. Geologic features, such as canyons, caves, geysers, glaciers, mountains, and shorelines, are natural "laboratories". Scientific observation, experimentation, and exploration help to expand our understanding of the geosciences.

PROJECT: Jim Wood (NPS), Limaris Soto (Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP)), Geoff Camphire (AGI), Rebecca Port (NPS), Jason Kenworthy (NPS), Georgia Hybels (NPS); DESIGN: Angela Terry Design. Photos courtesy NPS. IMAGES front clockwise from upper left: Robert Sterling Yard (Courtesy National Parks & Conservation Association), Rainbow Bridge, Congaree (GIP), Crater Lake, Mojave (Dale Pate), Great Basin (GIP), Fossil Butte, Big Bend (Ann Wildermuth), El Malpais (GIP), Shenandoah. IMAGES Back clockwise from top: Grand Canyon (W. Tyson Joye), Santa Monica Mountains, Denali (GIP), Bryce Canyon (GIP), Mesa Verde, North Cascades; center L to R: North Cascades, Wrangell–St. Elias, Denali (GIP).

Teacher Feature

The National Park System is a natural laboratory of dynamic Earth systems and spectacular geologic features. National parks can expand your students' horizons as a natural extension of the classroom. Learn more about park geology education at **http://nature.nps.gov/geology/education/index.cfm.**

Learning Activity:

Find Your Park

To find your park, think about what values, landforms, and stories speak to you, or what questions you have. Visit **http://findyourpark.com/find** to discover parks and other public lands near you. Once you've found your special park, look for more information about its geology. Learn the story behind the scenery and how geologic processes created its features and landscapes.

1. **Explore and discover.** Explore the geologic features—volcanoes, glaciers, fossils, caves, rivers, dunes, arches, and others at www.nature.nps.gov/geology/tour/. If you cannot travel to your park, visit the park website or your local library.
2. **Learn the geologic story.** What kind of landforms can you see and how were they created? Take or collect pictures, and write down your observations and findings in your field notebook. Learn more about America's geologic features and processes at **http://go.nps.gov/regional_geology.**
3. **Dig deeper.** Contact your local park, museum, or state geological survey to ask whether they have maps or reports that are specific to your park. The National Park Service produces geologic maps and reports for parks across the country. Access them at **http://go.nps.gov/gripubs.**
4. **Share your story.** Share its values and geologic story at school or at home. You may be able to feature your park in your school's science fair or plan a field trip. Blog about it and share your experience and your park's geologic story online using **#NPSgeology** and **#FindYourPark.**